

35 Douglass Road
Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446

January 9, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

After three long years of legal battles, Microsoft and the Department of Justice have come to a settlement regarding the antitrust suit. I believe this settlement will be beneficial to both the IT industry and our economy as a whole. The only thing this suit has done is cause the misuse of American tax-dollars, and it has severely affected Microsoft stockholders and brought down the value of the stock market itself.

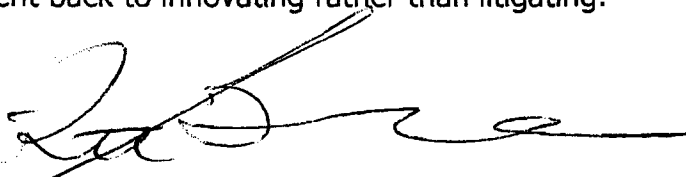
Microsoft's products are by far more innovative than any competitors – comparing Windows to Linux is like comparing the 21st century to the dark ages – there is no comparison for the average consumer or small businesses. The various suits have been distracting to consumers and Microsoft alike. As shareholders (small and large) we have been punished enough. The continuation of these suits is not good for business, consumers or Microsoft.

This settlement is fair and reasonable, and was reached after extensive negotiations with a court-appointed mediator. Even though the agreement goes further than what Microsoft would have liked, it believes that settling the case now would be the right thing to do to help the industry and economy move forward. By delaying the practice of this settlement, we only harm our place in the global market.

All action that is being taken at the federal level needs to stop. It is about time Microsoft went back to innovating rather than litigating.

Sincerely,

Ron Graves



cc: Senator Rick Santorum